

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 72-80 and 88-93 are rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,219,045 (“Leahy”), U.S. Patent No. 5,923,737 (“Weishut”) and in further review of U.S. Patent No. 4,821,029 (“Logan”).

As previously provided, independent claim 72 has been further amended to recite modifying the behavior of the agent including displaying an animated image associated with the agent at the electronic system if the state is present. As even admitted by the Patent Office, the primary Leahy reference does not teach modifying the behavior of the agent wherein modifying the behavior include displaying an image, let alone an animated image, associated with the agent at the electronic system if the state is present. See, Office Action, page 3.

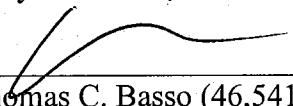
Further, Applicants do not believe that the remaining cited references can be relied on solely to remedy the deficiencies of Leahy. Regarding Weishut, the Patent Office relies on Figure 6 and the corresponding text in column 5 beginning at line 7 for the alleged teaching regarding modifying the behavior including displaying an image associated with the agent as claimed. See, Office Action, page 4. However, modifying the behavior including displaying an image as alleged in Weishut is not the display of an animated image as recited in claim 72 and fully supported in the specification. Indeed, in Weishut, the user simply indicates his absence/presence by switching the light switch. Absence is represented by a dark office ..., while presence is represented by an illuminated office. See, Weishut, column 5, at lines 48-52. Moreover, the Patent Office has merely relied on the Logan reference for its alleged teaching regarding resetting the state to present if the agent parameter is not returned within a predetermined time period. Therefore, even if properly combinable, Applicants believe that the cited art is distinguished from the claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the obviousness rejection with respect to claims 72-80 and 88-93 be withdrawn.

The remaining claims 81-87 and 94-99 have been considered allowed. See, Office Action, page 8.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit reconsideration of same.

Respectfully submitted,

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